[*English*]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (BALASORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Orissa, the situation is very alarming due to non-availability of rice. The price of rice is so high that the poor people could not afford to buy rice in the open market. The price of coarse rice is Rs. 5.50 or Rs. 6.00 per Kg. and the fine rice is Rs. 6.00 or Rs. 6.50 per Kg. There is no stock available in Fair Price Shops. Although, people have money, they are not getting rice since the stock is not there.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of this Government that the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and several other parts of the country are suffering a lot due to shortage of fertilizers. Fertilizers are being sold at a premium because the dealers are expecting some huge profits. It may be due to the coming Budget where they may increase the prices.

Now that the brisk agricultural operations are going on throughout the country because monsoon has already set in, I would request the Government to take necessary steps to de-hoard the stocks and make available fertilizers to all the farmers at controlled price and also in requisite quantity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (MADHUBANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with great grief and pain, I would like to bring to your notice an important matter. Our constitution guarantees everyone right to vote but on 12th June in my constituency, seven persons were gunned down for their only fault of exercising their right to vote. These seven persons were killed on different booths. Nisarul Haque who was 21 years of age was killed first and then his father, Abdul Latif who rushed to the booth to save his son, was killed. On the adjoining booth Mohammad Toquid was killed, so was killed Ramashish Thakur on another booth. Dipu Das met the same fate on yet another booth and Rayees Raeen in Benipatti-Chandpura. In the same way Mohammad Mohid was killed in Nagwasa. Thus, in all seven persons were killed. All these seven victims belonged to the families of farm labourers. In six of the seven families there is now no adult-male left all others are minors. In one family, there are two widows now. I am not talking of a court-case here. Several culprits involved in these incidents are absconding. I have written a letter to the Prime Minister and through you also I would like to say that the culprits responsible for these incidents must be dealt with firmly as it was not a quarrel between two groups and there was also not any enmity behind these. We did not use even a cracker at the time of the incident. However, I had allowed my supporter to use only sticks to protect themselves.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please be brief. Do not go in detail.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that some sort of relief should be provided to the families of the deceased. Five of them belonged to minorities and two to Harijan families and weaker sections but all of them were poor. I would like to know from the Law Minister and the Home Minister as to what does the Government do and what does this House do when polling booths are attacked in this manner and when persons, who insist on casting their and are not prepared to leave the booth without casting their vote, are killed ? Near about half of the dreaded crimanals of Bihar had reached my constituency on 12th June.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, you are stretching it too far.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I have sought relief for them. The Law Minister as well as the Home Minister should go into this matter and decide as to what punishment can be awarded to the criminals for such a crime. The criminals are going scot free.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same kind of incidents have taken place in my